Idaho Behavioral Health Planning Council

Guiding Principles

Transformation gives decision-making responsibility concerning regional family support services and recovery support services to those who best understand the needs and resources of their local communities. As the Idaho Behavioral Health Planning Council, we want Regional Behavioral Health Board members to know what this opportunity means to us, and what we'll be evaluating as Boards apply to assume responsibility of these regional services. The following are guiding principles we will be looking for in your application:

- I. The RBHB membership will be recovery oriented and consumer driven. The Regional Behavioral Health Board (RBHB) membership should accurately and authentically represent those positions outlined in Idaho Code. All regions in Idaho have rural areas and those areas need to be represented in some way.
- II. Once the RBHB membership has been established, boards need to make every effort to create an environment in which all members can be active participants. Examples would include providing orientation for new members, being creative in accommodating meeting participation, and maintaining respectful language.
- III. We will be confirming that all of the populations defined in Idaho Code are covered by the RBHB plans. Substance use disorder and mental health populations must be served and plans must cover both adults and children. Keep in mind that clients must be given choice in deciding who will provide their services. We understand that each board may initially choose specific services to provide, but the Council's expectation is that you keep the intent of the transformation legislation as your guiding principle.
- IV. Idaho is a very rural state and providing adequate services to our population is a challenge. We will be looking to see how services will be provided to those living in rural areas.
- V. We are all moving forward with transformation in an effort to improve outcomes for those we serve. Regions will need to have a process in place that measures outcomes, creates goals for filling gaps, and improves existing family supports and recovery support services when necessary.
- VI. Our expectation is that the relationship between the Planning Council and the RBHBs is one of mutual respect and open communication. We are moving through this process together and things will change as we move forward and learn from what we are doing. As we determine the readiness of a region, it may become apparent that we need to evaluate specific items differently than we had anticipated, meaning our process will need to change. We will all need to work together to make this effort both meaningful and effective.